MICHIGAN WIND ENERGY STUDIES
PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL
FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES

The purpose for this paper is to provide a basic description of a proposed Michigan Wind Energy Transmission Study, as a starting point for discussions amongst interested parties to help refine the study design. This paper presents only the first visioning and scoping activity for this project. Comments and suggestions are invited.

The first preliminary meeting on this subject will be held at MPSC Offices in Lansing on Friday, December 14, 2007. During the December 14 Michigan Wind Working Group Meeting, scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to noon at Michigan Public Service Commission Offices, Hearing Room E,[1] various participants in the Wind Energy Transmission Study (WETS) will provide a preliminary description of the planned study. A subsequent meeting to discuss the WETS will be held from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Those unavailable to attend the meeting in person are invited to participate by toll-free telephone and/or webconference.

Number to Dial = 877-336-1829
Pass code = 2022874#

Webconference address = https://www.webmeeting.att.com

MPSC has a new teleconference/webconference service, through AT&T. The first time you use the Web Meeting Service, client software needs to be downloaded onto your computer. Please connect to the webmeeting website about 10 minutes before the meeting start time to allow ample time to load the new client software. You will need administrative permissions on your computer set to allow you to download and install new software.

INTRODUCTION: Recent Michigan and U.S. Congressional policy proposals for a possible state or national renewable portfolio standard (RPS), other energy policy changes, and possible global climate change initiatives have focused a lot more attention on wind energy development. Additional interest has been fueled by the installation and imminent start-up of Michigan's largest commercial wind installation to date, the Deere/Wolverine Harvest Wind Farm project now being completed in Huron County. Plus, Michigan presently has over 2,000 MW of wind projects, in 14 different Michigan counties, listed in the MISO Interconnection Queue.

As a result of all this recent interest, policy makers are asking questions like these: Is there enough wind in Michigan to support an RPS of different specific percentages by different specific years? Is there enough land area where wind can be developed, without running into serious siting problems? How high can or should an RPS goal be, before it will raise renewable resource costs by pulling too hard on a market that has just started to develop?

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[1] Map and directions here: http://www.michigan.gov/mpsc/0,1607,7-159-16400_33353-42315--,00.html